

Information on private scholarships and grants can be found in such places as your school guidance office, public libraries, community organizations, the Internet, and the NHHEAF Network's Center for College Planning!

Going to School and Need Financial Aid?

Here's some things you need to know.

- ❑ **FIRST--don't assume you're not eligible.** EVERYONE qualifies for some form of financial aid, regardless of income. It can be based on need or income, and/or merit or academics. There are many types of grants, loans, and scholarships available. You won't know what types you qualify for until you apply!
- ❑ **File applications.** Check with the college's financial aid office to determine which applications are needed.
- ❑ **FAFSA:** To apply for federal aid you MUST complete a *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA) soon after January 1 in each year you intend to enroll in school. (Applications on-line at: www.fafsa.ed.gov, or visit your guidance office.) Some schools also require something called the CSS Profile Application or their own institution's form.
- ❑ **Deadlines, Deadlines, Deadlines!** Each school may have a different deadline. Missing a deadline may mean missing out on money. Pay close attention to admissions and financial aid deadlines at each school where you apply.
- ❑ **Paperwork:** Keep copies of ALL your admissions and financial aid paperwork.
- ❑ **Apply for private scholarships and grants.** They may help you reduced the amount you are expected to pay, or they may reduce your loan burden. Begin searching about one year prior to your intended start date.
- ❑ **Required tax information.** It is always best to use completed tax information. However, if you have not completed your taxes by the time the applications are due, don't delay. Use estimated figures. You can always send updated information to the colleges when they are completed.
- ❑ **Special Circumstances.** Notify the colleges directly of anything that may affect your family's ability to pay for college. For example, unreimbursed medical expenses or a recent job loss.



Laying the Foundation for a Perfect Career

It's never too soon to explore and plan



When it comes to career planning, there is time for dreaming and reflecting. There is also a time to choose and act. The first step of career planning is to simply understand whom you are and what you love to do. Discovering yourself, your personality, preferences, interests and abilities is a great place to start.

What do you want to be when you grow up?

Most students want a great job when they graduate from high school or college. Help yourself find a great job tomorrow by building upon your interests today. Have you always wanted to be a doctor? Hospitals are always hiring employees to assist in patient transport. Interested in sports management? Try working at a local ballpark or community-recreation organization. It is never too early to start thinking about your dream job. Meet with your guidance counselor to discuss career possibilities now. Look into summer jobs, special summer programs and internship opportunities.

Getting your dream job

Some of the best jobs and careers are offered to college graduates. This is one of the many reasons why it is so important to study and work hard in school. College is where students have the opportunity to not only earn a degree, but also to learn specialized skills. For example, are you interested in television broadcasting? At college, you can learn how to become a TV reporter or newscaster. Many of your favorite television stars and role models are college graduates. Did you know that President George W. Bush studied Business at Yale University? Or that Oprah Winfrey studied Speech and Drama at Tennessee State University and Nomar Garciaparra majored in Management at Georgia Institute of Technology? Even the most talented people recognize that going to college helps you to be truly accomplished!

Start planning for college today

While college may seem like decades away to most students, the time to begin thinking about the road that leads to college is now. Think about what subjects you enjoy or have excelled at. This is a great place to begin when thinking about college majors. A college major is a specific area of study that students will focus on in college. There are many majors to choose from, and there are many careers to think about as well. Your college major will provide the knowledge and training that you need in your career field. For example, a teacher may major in early childhood education and an architect may major in engineering. Ask yourself, "What am I good at and what do I like to do?" By answering this question, you will have a great head start towards choosing a college major and a career.

Get involved with school clubs and youth groups

This is a great way to explore new and exciting activities. Many students discover their true interests by trying out different clubs, community service events, student groups, or sport teams. These activities are perfect to include on your resume, college application, or in a job interview. Job shadowing is another great way to explore possible careers. If you would like to know more about a job, just ask the professional if you can observe him/her by going to their workplace for a few hours. You will learn what special skills are needed, what level of education is required, and what classes have helped in preparation for the job.

Preparing for college and your dream job

Because colleges and universities like to see students who have challenged themselves in school, you should be taking the most challenging courses possible while maintaining a B- or better. Involve yourself in activities that matter most to you. Do not

hesitate to talk with your parents and your guidance counselor about your future goals and interests. They can help lead you in the right direction and give you advice about ways to accomplish your goals. Don't be shy when asking for help. By involving your family and your teachers, you will be building a foundation of positive support. And don't forget...study, study, study.

The counselors at the Center for College Planning have designed various workshops that help students research what type of jobs and careers will best fit their style. The Center for College Planning is part of The New Hampshire Higher Education Assistance Foundation (NHHEAF) Network. The following early awareness programs and career development workshops are available to New Hampshire students:

- Who Wants to be a College Graduate – 8th grade workbook and presentation
- Laying the Foundation for the Perfect Career – 10th grade career workbook and presentation
- The Road to College for High School Students – High school college preparation workbook and presentation
- The Road to College for Junior High and Middle School Students – College and career planning hand-outs and presentation
- Destination College – Annual statewide college convention attended by over 1,000 high school juniors and parents in March. For more info, visit www.destinationcollege.org

Scott Power, NHHEAF College Counselor

SCHOLARSHIP

MYTHS AND TRUTHS

MYTH: "You will get access to our private network of information."

TRUTH: Oh please! There is no secret database of information. You can find the same information yourself by exploring the web.

MYTH: "Our success rate is 100%."

TRUTH: Ya, right! There is no 100% guarantee that a student will be matched up with money, just information on potential applications.

MYTH: "We guarantee you \$2,500 for college or your money back!"

TRUTH: All they are promising is a low interest loan for \$2,625 which every freshman is eligible to receive.



**NH Higher Education Assistance Foundation
Center for College Planning**
4 Barrell Court, Concord, NH 03302

We're here for you! To order our free materials or for more information, call the Center for College Planning at:
1-800-525-2577 x 119
or visit us on the web at: <www.nhheaf.org>

Brought to you by:

NHCRN
New Hampshire Career Resource Network
New Hampshire Employment Security
Economic & Labor Market Information Bureau
32 So. Main Street (603) 229-4489 Concord, NH 03301